
SENATE BILL 5495

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Deccio, Thibaudeau and Shin; by request of Department of Health

Read first time 01/26/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing the secretary of health with authority
2 to administer grants on behalf of the department of health; and
3 amending RCW 43.70.005 and 43.70.040.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.005 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 101 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds and declares that it is of importance to the
8 people of Washington state to live in a healthy environment and to
9 expect a minimum standard of quality in health care. The legislature
10 further finds that the social and economic vitality of the state
11 (~~depend[s]~~) depends on a healthy and productive population. The
12 legislature further declares where it is a duty of the state to assure
13 a healthy environment and minimum standards of quality in health care
14 facilities and among health care professionals, the ultimate
15 responsibility for a healthy society lies with the citizens themselves.

16 For these reasons, the legislature recognizes the need for a
17 strong, clear focus on health issues in state government and among
18 state health agencies to give expression to the needs of individual
19 citizens and local communities as they seek to preserve the public

1 health. It is the intent of the legislature to form such focus by
2 creating a single department in state government with the primary
3 responsibilities for the preservation of public health, monitoring
4 health care costs, the maintenance of minimal standards for quality in
5 health care delivery, and the general oversight and planning for all
6 the state's activities as they relate to the health of its citizenry.

7 Further, it is the intent of the legislature to improve illness and
8 injury prevention and health promotion, and restore the confidence of
9 the citizenry in the efficient and accountable expenditure of public
10 funds on health activities that further the mission of the agency via
11 grants, contracts, and other legal mechanisms, and to ensure that this
12 new health agency delivers quality health services in an efficient,
13 effective, and economical manner that is faithful and responsive to
14 policies established by the legislature.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.040 and 2001 c 80 s 2 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 In addition to any other powers granted the secretary, the
18 secretary may:

19 (1) Adopt, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, rules necessary to
20 carry out the provisions of chapter 9, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess.:
21 PROVIDED, That for rules adopted after July 23, 1995, the secretary may
22 not rely solely on a section of law stating a statute's intent or
23 purpose, on the enabling provisions of the statute establishing the
24 agency, or on any combination of such provisions, for statutory
25 authority to adopt any rule;

26 (2) Appoint such advisory committees as may be necessary to carry
27 out the provisions of chapter 9, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess. Members of
28 such advisory committees are authorized to receive travel expenses in
29 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The secretary and the
30 board of health shall review each advisory committee within their
31 jurisdiction and each statutory advisory committee on a biennial basis
32 to determine if such advisory committee is needed;

33 (3) Undertake studies, research, and analysis necessary to carry
34 out the provisions of chapter 9, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess. in
35 accordance with RCW 43.70.050;

36 (4) Delegate powers, duties, and functions of the department to

1 employees of the department as the secretary deems necessary to carry
2 out the provisions of chapter 9, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess.;

3 (5) Enter into contracts and enter into and distribute grants on
4 behalf of the department to carry out the purposes of chapter 9, Laws
5 of 1989 1st ex. sess.;

6 (6) Act for the state in the initiation of, or the participation
7 in, any intergovernmental program to the purposes of chapter 9, Laws of
8 1989 1st ex. sess.; or

9 (7) Solicit and accept gifts, grants, bequests, devises, or other
10 funds from public and private sources.

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